- Exposure: the use, persistence, accumulation, or degradation of the substance shows that there may be signficant exposure of humans or the environment;
- Targets: the size and nature of the population at risk (human and other species) and the risks for the environment should be taken into account; and
- International concern: the substance should be of major interest to several countries.

Target chemicals for evaluation were set by U.N. member countries at the first meeting of the International Forum on Chemical Safety in 1994. OECD has a program to test and assess high production volume (HPV) chemicals which began in 1990 and currently includes 220 HPV chemicals; evaluations have been finalized for 45. Results of these evaluations will be published in cooperation with the IPCS. For additional information on this joint effort, contact George C. Becking, World Health Organization, at (919) 541-7537.

Tribal Environmental Council Meets

Native American tribal leaders met in December to confront growing concerns about the environment on tribal lands at the second annual meeting of the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) in Reno, Nevada.

Jerry Pardilla, interim executive director of the council, noted that NTEC was founded by 7 tribes in 1991 and has now grown to 53 member tribes from 16 states. "While there is great diversity in our tribal cultures, geography, and governance," Pardilla said, "we are striving to develop a tribal environmental strategy which respects our differences and builds upon our common experiences."

The meeting was co-sponsored by the NIEHS. Kenneth Olden, director of NIEHS, was the keynote speaker. Olden's address, entitled, "Protecting the Environment, Protecting the Children," highlighted the research initiatives of the NIEHS focused on the issue of environmental justice. Olden said, "Institute efforts recognize that residents in a local area are the starting point for effective research as well as prevention and intervention programs in environmental health sciences . . . When scientists work collaboratively with grassroots groups such as the National Tribal Environmental Council, we do science that more immediately improves people's health."

The NIEHS involvement in the conference is just one aspect of the institute's efforts to address concerns of Native Americans. Last spring, the NTEC hosted a two-day visit by Olden and members of his staff to Pueblo homes near Albuquerque, New Mexico. Leadership of the NTEC also participated in the NIEHS Environmental Justice Symposium in February 1994 that brought together grassroots environmental groups from around the country with key environmental officials from the federal government. During that meeting, President Clinton signed an Executive Order establishing a government-wide environmental justice initiative.

NIEHS

On the front line. K-12 teachers and NIEHS staff met at a recent workshop on science literacy.

Earth Day Environmental Careers Symposium

For the third year in a row, NIEHS will co-host approximately 200 high school students and their teachers for a series of presentations, lunch, and a high-tech, interactive "arcade" of environmental science-related exhibits. The April 26 event is designed to help participants learn more about the many careers relating to the environment including scientific research, public policy, communications, and other fields. Speakers will include Bill Leslie, environmental reporter for WRAL television in Raleigh, a CBS affiliate.

The students from each high school will attend a series of morning and afternoon presentations. The winners of a special essay contest on an environmental subject, sponsored by the NIEHS and North Carolina State University's College of Forest Resources, will receive prizes of U.S. Savings bonds at the opening session.

Michael Hogan, chair of the NIEHS Science Education Committee, which plans the event, noted that plans this year will expand services to enable hearing-impaired students to attend. Hogan noted, "The responses we receive from students and their teachers indicate that the symposiums have generated strong interest in research and other environmental careers among students."

NIEHS Hosts Teacher Workshop

K-12 classroom teachers are on the front line for science education. NIEHS joined with other major research organizations in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, in hosting a series of teacher workshops titled, "Rx for Science Literacy: The What, Where, How and Why of Biomedical Research." The series, sponsored by the North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research, runs from January through April.

Explaining the purpose behind the conferences, Karen Hoffman, president of NCABR, said, "Teachers are in a unique position to introduce their students to the role biomedical research has played in prevention and treatment of human disease and dysfunction. These workshops give teachers a foothold in enhancing science literacy among their students."

The sessions were designed to update teachers' knowledge about biomedical research and testing and to allow scientists from host institutions to present information about their own career paths and about opportunities for young people in science. Examples of sessions include talks on "The Fidelity of Genetic Reproduction," by William Copeland of the NIEHS Laboratory of Molecular Genetics; "Biotechnology: New Tools of Molecular Toxicology," by Kenneth Tindall of the NIEHS Laboratory of Environmental Carcinogenesis/Mutagenesis; and "NIEHS Animal Care and Use Program" by Mary Goelz of the Comparative Medicine Branch.

During the meetings, teachers toured NIEHS laboratories and received a 300-page teacher reference manual and lesson plans as well supplemental materials and videotapes. Teachers who attended received a unit of renewal credit toward teacher certification.